



United States Mission to the OSCE

Statement on Election Support Team to Afghanistan

As delivered by Chargé d' Affaires Kyle Scott
to the Permanent Council, Vienna
April 2, 2009

Madam Chairwoman.

My delegation was very pleased to join in the consensus adoption of this decision.

As you pointed out, just two days ago in The Hague, there was an international conference on Afghanistan. In that conference, co-hosted by the Government of the Netherlands, the United Nations, and the Government of Afghanistan, a broad strategy of renewed commitment by the international community was laid out. Part of that commitment included promoting good governance, and first in the area of importance on that, as noted in the declaration, was giving “firm support to the preparing and holding of elections that are secure, transparent, fair, and credible, so as to enjoy the confidence of the Afghan people and consolidate democracy in Afghanistan.”

My delegation is very pleased to see that this organization was able to come together only two days after that international conference to adopt a decision which shows our commitment to contributing to that overall process.

I noted also that during that conference, there was a clear call for further work across the board in Afghanistan, in which all of the participants agreed to expand significantly the resources and personnel that we devote to civilian capacity-building programs, and in this regard, also to regional cooperation programs. One key point highlighted in this regard was improving the security and integrity of national borders by working with governments in the region to strengthen cooperation of law enforcement, counter-narcotics efforts, and custom policies.

I think we have taken a huge first step in this decision today, but there is more work for our organization to do. We look forward to continuing to work with the other participating States on these areas — areas which are still undecided following the Madrid Ministerial Decision. In particular, the various different programs on border security measures deserve our continued attention, and we hope we can make progress here as well in the near future.

Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.